



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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NEWS RELEASE

An indictment<sup>1</sup> was filed today against John Gassew charging him with two Hobbs Act robberies, and two counts of carrying and using a firearm during a crime of violence stemming from two gunpoint robberies in October 2009, announced United States Attorney Michael L. Levy. According to the indictment, on October 26, 2009, Gassew robbed the 7-Eleven convenience store, located at 2634 Bridge Street, Philadelphia, of approximately \$263 worth of cigarettes and \$306 in cash. The indictment further alleges that on October 28, 2009, Gassew robbed the 7-Eleven convenience store, located at 8101 Oxford Avenue, Philadelphia, of approximately \$4,854 worth of cigarettes and \$140 in cash.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANT

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR YEAR OF BIRTH
John Gassew	Philadelphia, PA	23

If convicted the defendant faces a maximum possible sentence of life imprisonment and a mandatory minimum of seven years imprisonment consecutive to any other sentence of imprisonment for the first firearm offense and a mandatory minimum of 25 years imprisonment consecutive to any other sentence of imprisonment for the second firearm offense.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Philadelphia Police Department and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Ewald Zittlau.

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<sup>1</sup>An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.